Message Text

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CONFIDENTIAL USNATO 2020

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MNUC, NPG, NATO SUBJECT: NPG: FRG DECLARATION OF INTERPRETATION OF NEW TECHNOLOGY STUDY FORWARDING LETTER

REFS: (A) USNATO 1809 (DTG 301202Z MAR 77); (B) USNATO 1045 (DTG 251835Z FEB 77)

1. THERE FOLLOWS BELOW IN PARA 4 THE TEXT OF A LETTER CONTAINING THE FRG "DECLARATION OF INTERPRETATION" OF PARA 10 OF THE NEW TECHNOLOGY FULL STUDY PANEL FORWARDING LETTER (REF A). WHILE AGREEING TO THE TEXT OF THE FORWARDING LETTER AND NOT FORMALLY BREAKING THE SILENCE PROCEDURE, THE FRG CLEARLY HAS INDICATED ITS PREFERENCE ON THE PURPOSELY UNADDRESSED ISSUE OF A CONTINUED ROLE FOR THE TECHNOLOGY STUDY GROUP. THE UK PREVIOUSLY HAS INDICATED ITS OPPOSITION TO CONTIUING ANY NEW TECHNOLOGY FOLLOW-ON WORK IN THE NPG (REF B). NPG PERMREPS TENTATIVELY PLAN TO DISCUSS THE NEW TECHNOLOGY STUDY ON APRIL 21, ALTHOUGH DISCUSSION COULD SLIP TO EITHER MAY 5 OR MAY 23. IF CONFIDENTIAL

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WASHINGTON STILL PREFERS THE NPG AS THE LOCUS OF AT LEAST NEAR-TERM NEW TECHNOLOGY FOLLOW-ON WORK, WE BELIEVE THAT, GIVEN THE DIFFERING NATIONAL VIEWS, IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO REACH AN AGREEMENT ON A RECOMMENDED COURSE OF ACTION FOR ANY FOLLOW-ON ORGANIZATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS. THEREFORE, WE BELIEVE THAT, AT THIS MEETING, WE SHOULD TRY TO SEEK CONSENSUS SUPPORT FOR THE SUBSTANCE OF THE REPORT AND THE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FOLLOW-ON ACTION. PERMREPS COULD ENGAGE IN A USEFUL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE BEST ORGANIZATION TO CARRY OUT THESE RECOMMENDATIONS,

BUT A DECISION ON THIS ASPECT WOULD NECESSARILY HAVE TO BE DEFERRED TO MINISTERS.

2. SINCE THE FRG HAS NOT BROKEN THE SILENCE PROCEDURE, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT ANY FOOTNOTING OF THE FORWARDING LETTER IS REQUIRED. NEITHER DO WE BELIEVE THAT THE AMBASSADOR'S TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO SYG LUNS NEED MAKE ANY MENTION OF THE FRG DECLARATION, SINCE THE FRG ALREADY HAS CIRCULATED THE TEXT OF THE DECLARATION TO NPG ALLIES. THE FRG CONCURS IN THIS APPROACH.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON GUIDANCE BY APRIL 20 REGARDING A STATEMENT FOR THE CHARGE TO MAKE AT THE APRIL 21 NPG PERMREPS MEETING COVERING THE CONCLUSIONS AND ORGANIZATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR FOLLOW-ON EFFORTS OF THE NPG NEW TECHNOLOGY STUDY.

4. BEGIN TEXT OF FRG LETTER:

MY AUTHORITIES HAVE ASKED ME TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING DECLARATION OF INTERPRETATION CONCERNING THE DRAFT FORWARDING LETTER OF THE FULL STUDY PANEL OF THE TECHNOLOGY STUDY GROUP/NPG WHICH WAS AGREED AT THE MARCH 28/29 1977 MEETNG OF THE FULL STUDY PANEL:

"MOD GERMANY AGREES TO THE DRAFT WORDING OF THE FORWARDING LETTER OF THE FULL STUDY PANEL OF THE TECH-CONFIDENTIAL.

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NOLOGY STUDY GROUP/NPG.

AS FAR AS PARA 10 IS CONCERNED AND IN THE LIGHT OF THE FULL STUDY PANEL DISCUSSION WE UNDERSTAND THAT NO ESTABLISHMENT OF THE TSG AS A CONTINUOUS STUDY GROUP IS INTENDED. RATHER, WE UNDERSTAND PARA 10 TO SAY THAT AS LONG AS NO DECISION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A "CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK" HAS BEEN TAKEN (SEE PARA 9B) THE TSG MAY STAND BY FOR A LIMITED PERIOD OF TIME TO ASSIST MINISTERS AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES IS SO DESIRED IN A CONCEPTUAL WAY".

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